

## Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SP-02 PM-01 DODE-00 EB-03 PRS-01 /036 W

----- 052884

R 011635Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8608

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

S E C R E T ACCRA 4995

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT GH

SUBJ: GOG NERVOUSNESS INCREASED BY NIGERIAN COUP

1. BITS OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, AUGMENTED BY THE EVER ACTIVE ACCRA RUMOR MILL, INDICATE AN INCREASE IN THE LEVEL OF NERVOUSNESS WITHIN THE GHANIAN GOVERNMENT, ALREADY SOMEWHAT JITTERY AS THE RESULT OF THE REACTIONS TO THE AUSTERITY BUDGET. WHILE NONE OF THE REPORTS WE HAVE ARE FULLY SUBSTANTIATED THERE IS SUFFICIENT SUBSTANCE COLLECTIVELY TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE NIGERIAN COUP HAS HAD AT LEAST A PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT HERE.

2. IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AND SPECIAL BRANCH ARE KEEPING A VERY CLOSE EYE ON SUSPECTED SOURCES OF DISCONTENT BOTH WITHIN THE MILITARY AND IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR AND THAT SOME MILITARY STAFFS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON PARTIAL ALERT. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS GRUMBLING AND DISSIDENCE WITHIN THE MILITARY ITSELF.

3. WE ARE ALSO TOLD THAT COLONEL BERNASKO HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION AS COMMISSIONER TO COCOA AFFAIRS, ALTHOUGH THE LETTER

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PREDATED THE NEWS OF THE NIGERIAN COUP. BERNASKO HAS NOT BEEN

PLEASED WITH HIS "DEMOTION" FROM AGRICULTURE TO THE NEWLY FORMED COCOA MINISTRY AND HAS NOT PULLED ON WELL WITH COMMANDER ADDO, HEAD OF COCOA MARKETING BOARD. HE IS THE BEST EDUCATED AND ONE OF THE MOST COMPETENT AND LEAST CORRUPT OF THE LACKLUSTER NRC AND BELONGS TO THE FANTI ARISTOCRACY FROM CAPE COAST. ACHEAMPONG HAS NOT ACCEPTED RESIGNATION AND APPARENTLY IS BEING FED REPORTS THAT BERNASKO MAY BE THE LEADER OF DISSIDENT GROUP. LESS LIKELY, BUT POSSIBLE, IS REPORT THAT CHIEF OF DEFENSE STAFF OKAI IS ALSO CONSIDERING RESIGNATION. HE, LIKE BERNASKO, IS FREE FROM ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND COULD BE PLANNING TO JUMP SHIP TO KEEP HIMSELF FREE FROM GENERALIZED CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND INCOMPETENCE SHOULD A COUP TAKE PLACE. MORE IN THE RUMOR STAGE ARE REPORTS TO INVOLVEMENT OF FORMER NLC MEMBER GENERAL OCRAN AND CURRENT WORKS AND HOUSING COMMISSIONER KOTEI. REPORTS OF EWE "PLOTING" ALSO CONTINUE. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE COLONEL SELORMEY, COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH, HAS BEEN ASKED TO RESIGN FOLLOWING A SPEECH LAST WEEK AT CAPE COAST WHICH APPEARED TO ACHEAMPONG TO BE CRITICAL OF THE NRC. THE SOURCE ADDS THAT SELORMEY HAS REFUSED TO RESIGN. ANOTHER SOURCE REPORTED SELORMEY WAS NOT ASKED TO RESIGN BUT WAS CENSURED BY THE ARMED FORCES ADVISORY BOARD FOR PUBLICLY CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT.

4. GRUMBLING ABOUT THE BUDGET AND ABOUT SHORTAGES OF IMPORTED ITEMS CONTINUES AND IS EVIDENT AT ALL LEVELS. LOWER INCOME GROUP IS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY SUCH ITEMS AS 25 PERCENT INCREASE IN TRANSPORT FARES AND DECREASING REAL INCOME AS INFLATION PROCEEDS. UPPER LEVELS ARE HIT BY INCREASE IN INCOME TAX AVERAGING 8 TO 10 PERCENT. ACHEAMPONG IS REPORTEDLY LOOKING FOR SCAEGOAT FOR BUDGET (IN WHICH SOME MINOR CONCESSIONS MAY BE MADE) AND MAY HAVE SELECTED KWAME DONKOR FORJWOR, SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR FINANCE (AND DE FACTO COMMISSIONER FOR FINANCE) TO GET AXE.

5. MALAISE, INDECISION AND INDECISIVENESS, OF WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED EARLIER, CONTINUE AND AFFECT BOTH GOVERNMENTAL MACHINERY AND POPULATION. SLOGANS ARE GIVEN AND PLANS ANNOUNCED BUT IMPLEMENTATION REMAINS SHORT SUIT.

6. WE CANNOT PREDICT OUTCOME BUT SUSPECT POSSIBILITY OF SOME CHANGE IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN IT HAS BEEN. CHANGE, SHOULD IT OCCUR, COULD TAKE FORM OF GENERAL HOUSE CLEANING AS IN NIGERIA,  
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BUT ARRANGEMENT WITH SOME DROPPING OUT AND OTHERS BEING ADDED SEEMS MORE LIKELY.  
BLACK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, BUDGETS, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ACCRA04995  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOG NERVOUSNESS INCREASED BY NIGERIAN COUP  
**TAGS:** PINT, GH, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006